

since March, 1993 and hence the term 'devaluation' has lost its usefulness. However, the rupee has depreciated by 9.07% between 31.3.93 and 31.3.96 against the US dollar.

(b) and (c) External debt is incurred, denominated and serviced in terms of foreign currencies. Therefore the amount of debt in terms of foreign currencies remains unaffected by movements in the exchange rate of the rupee vis-a-vis foreign currencies.

Export-Import Bank of India

4434. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a persistent demand for setting up of a bank branch of Export-Import Bank of India (Exim) at Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has reported that it has not received any request for setting up of Exim Bank's branch at Guwahati.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in Industrial Licences

4435. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of conversion of letter of intent into industrial licence and filling of industrial entrepreneurs memorandum have been declined during 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of letter of intent and industrial entrepreneurs memorandum registered during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the position of industrial licences likely to be issued during 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The following table shows the number of conversion of letters of intent into Industrial Licences, Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued and the Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEMs) filed from 1994 to 1996 :

	1994	1995	1996
Conversion of letters of intent into Industrial Licences	125	83	90
Letters of Intent issued	546	355	522
IEMs filed	4664	6502	4825

(d) Letters of Intent are valid for a period of three years during which these need to be converted into Industrial Licence. It takes generally 4 to 5 years for an Industrial Project to fructify. However, the gestation period varies from Industry to Industry.

[Translation]

Export of Synthetic Yarn

4436. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of synthetic yarn from Maharashtra has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the said decline; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing the export of synthetic yarn ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) State-wise export statistics are not maintained. However, India's overall exports of synthetic and blended yarn have increased from Rs. 232 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 678 crores in 1995-96.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports of textile items, including synthetic yarn, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Production of Coal

4437. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal mines under Coal India Ltd;

(b) the target fixed for production of coal in those

mines during Eighth Plan;

- (c) whether the production target has been achieved;
- (d) if not, the real position; and
- (e) the steps are being taken to increase the off take of coal from different coal mines under CIL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The number of working coal mines under Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 1.1.1997 is 502.

(b) to (d) The yearwise targets and actual production of coal so far during the VIII Plan period are given below :

(In million tonnes)		
Year	Target	Actual production
1992-93	210.00	211.22
1993-94	216.00	216.10
1994-95	223.00	223.07
1995-96	241.00	237.28
1996-97	252.00	222.43*

*(Provisional production figure upto February, 1997)

(e) The following steps are being taken by CIL to increase the off-take of coal from different coal mines of the company

- (i) maintaining continuous coordination with the railways in order to maximise supply of railway wagons and wagon loading of coal;
- (ii) increasing the number of coal handling plants and upgrading their efficiency to improve the rapid loading system.
- (iii) increasing the number of pay loaders and improving their efficiency.
- (iv) maintaining close liaison with the linked consumers for maximising off-take of coal

Indirect Tax Collection

4438 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether indirect tax collection fell short of the targets set therefor during 1996;

(b) if so, the budget estimate for target set and to what extent it has fallen short;

(c) the main reasons for short fall and the steps the Government propose to take to improve the tax collections; and

(d) to what extent programme are being made to improve the exports during the remaining period of the current year and also during 1997 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Revised Budget Estimates of customs and Union excise duties (exclusive of cesses not administered by the Department of Revenue) and service taxes for the financial year, 1996-97 are given below :

(Rs. in crore)	
Customs	44135
Union excise	45917
Service taxes	970

These estimates have been prepared for the entire financial year. All possible efforts are being made to maximise the revenue collection. The extent of shortfall, if any, in the current financial year can be quantified only after 31.3.1997.

(d) There are a number of schemes for promotion of exports such as EPCG scheme, Duty Exemption scheme, scheme for EOU/EPZ etc. under the Exim Policy, 1992-97. Steps being taken to improve the export performance in 1997-98 would be indicated in the new Exim policy.

VABAL

4439 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to abolish Value Based Advance Licence Scheme (VABAL);

(b) if so, the purpose of abolishing VABAL; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (c) All major export promotion schemes including Value Based Advance Licence Scheme (VABAL) are under review of the Government in the forthcoming EXIM Policy for 1997-2002 to be announced shortly, coterminous with 9th Five Year Plan.